



June 1998

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# VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

## Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Week '98

### Celebrate Independence Day with Voter Registration!

Events for Overseas Citizens Voters Week (OCVW) now can be tied into July 4th celebrations. Secretary of Defense William Cohen, the Presidential Designee for administering the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA), distributed the 1998-99 Voting Action Plan in October 1997 which designated the week of June 28th through July 4th, 1998 as Overseas Citizens Voters Week.

The objective of OCVW is to create awareness and motivation to participate in the November 3 general election. During this week, Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) at Embassies/Consulates and overseas citizen organizations and corporations should make a concerted effort to promote worldwide participation in the electoral process by U.S. citizens.

Activities during this week should emphasize the importance of requesting registration

and a ballot in sufficient time to receive, vote and return the ballot in time to meet the state deadline for receipt of ballots for the November 3 general election. Participation in the upcoming primary elections should be

encouraged as well.

If you are interested in becoming a Voting Assistance officer for your United States citizen organization see the article on page 4.



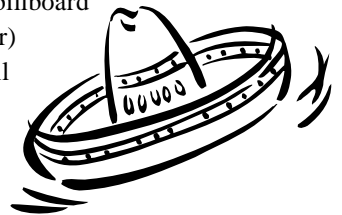
**The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has designated July 4, 1998 as a world-wide voter registration day for all overseas United States citizens.** Independence Day celebrations pro-

vide an excellent venue for motivating overseas citizens to register and vote. World-wide voter assistance efforts during this week to consist of voter registration drives, motivational activities, extensive local English-language media coverage and the personal support of Ambassadors is recommended as a good platform to reach out to a broader number of citizens that may not otherwise understand how to vote.

Publicize the FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and the candidate messages available through the Voting Information Center at the world-wide toll free numbers. The website contains on-line Training Workshop presentations for VAOs. The workshop can be used for information and motivational presentations to your citizen organizations. Contact the FVAP if you have any questions.

Another tool available is the '98 *Get-Out-The-Vote* Campaign. In conjunction with the Advertising Council, the FVAP is

conducting the Campaign, featuring the very popular "Flag" spot consisting of TV, radio, and print media Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Copies of the PSAs have been distributed nationally and internationally to 1,500 TV stations and networks, including CNN International and Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS); 7,100 radio stations and networks and 8,000 newspapers. Also, 500 out-of-home (billboard and bus shelter) companies will distribute the theme: "Vote for Your Candidate, Vote for Your Country, but Most of All, Vote for Yourself!"



The TV and radio versions of the spots may be tagged with non-partisan information such as "For more information, contact the Consular Affairs office in (city) at (local phone number)." The FVAP can make these PSAs available to you for use throughout the election year to include Overseas Citizens Voters Week and can assist in localization tagging.

In addition, all VAOs should ensure they have sufficient quantities of the 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guide* which outlines state-by-state procedures for requesting registration and a ballot; the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which is the application for request for registration and an absentee ballot;

(See **July 4**, pg. 2)

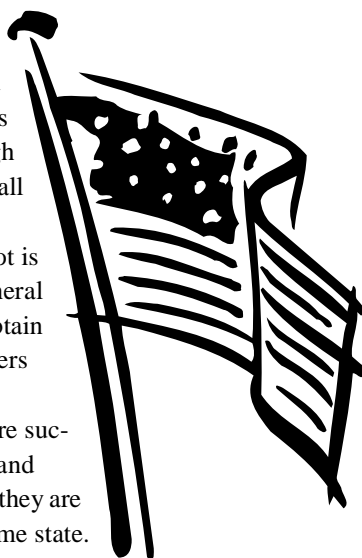


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(July 4, from pg. 1) the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), which is used as a back up ballot; Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and other materials necessary for a successful Overseas Citizens Voters Week. Remember -- to allow enough transit time when voting absentee from overseas -- all citizens who have not registered prior to OCVW should be encouraged to do so to ensure their ballot is received timely and counted in the November 3 general election. Organizations of overseas citizens may obtain their supplies directly from the FVAP at the numbers listed below.

After OCVW, follow-up with citizens to ensure successful registration (the FVAP can help with this) and remind them to return their voted ballots as soon as they are received to allow sufficient transit time to their home state.



### Voting Assistance Officers

## **“To Do” This Month**

[ ] Encourage participation in state primary elections. There are 22 such elections scheduled for June, July and August. Always encourage use of the *Voting Assistance Guide* (hardcopy or on-line edition at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) for state-by-state details on how to register and obtain an absentee ballot.

[ ] Carry out plans for Overseas Citizens Voters Week (week of June 28, 1998) and finalize plans for Armed Forces Voters Week (week of August 30, 1998). Guidelines for events during these two important weeks are featured on page one of this issue and the next issue of the VIN. Stress early action to ensure registration and participation in the November 3 general election.

[ ] Visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) often for an on-line version of this newsletter and news releases (check under “Publications”) and other information critical for carrying out your duties as a Voting Assistance Officer. News releases are very important as they relay information on special and run-off elections held, as well as primary election date changes in the states.

[ ] Review the on-line Training Workshop presentation for VAOs at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The information provided on-line supersedes the information previously provided on video tape and via FVAP training workshops. This is an excellent resource for VAOs holding education and motivational meetings for US citizens. The slideshow is downloadable and you are encouraged to make the most of the presentation by personalizing it to meet the needs of your specific local audience.

### **News Release Update 1998**

The following news releases have been disseminated by the FVAP. If you have not received them they are available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) or call the FVAP to have your name added to the distribution list for future releases.

**Release #7:** Reminder for New Jersey Voters: Electronic Transmission of Election Materials for the June 2 State Primary is an Option

**Release #6:** New Mexico Announces Candidates for June 23, 1998 Special Election in 1st Congressional District

**Release #5:** Kentucky Allows Electronic Transmission (Faxing) of FPCA Request for a Ballot and Unvoted Ballot

**Release #4:** Delaware, Lackawanna, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties (Pennsylvania) to Allow Use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and Electronic Transmission of Election Materials to Vote in the May 19, 1998 Primary Election

**Release #3:** North Carolina Moves Primary Election for U.S. House of Representatives Seats from May 5 to September 15, 1998

**Release #2:** Voting Assistance Officers (VAO) Training Now on Web

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The FVAP recently moved to a new office. Some telephone service interruptions may occur as numbers are changed and transferred to the new location. We apologize for any inconvenience.



### **Federal Voting Assistance Program**

*Voting Information News* provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the FVAP.

Director:	John Uschold
Deputy Director:	Pauline Brunelli
VIN Editor &	
Management Operations:	Ricardo Rovira
Assistant for Administration:	Betty Collins
Assistant for Financial Management:	
& Special Projects	Sherri Morris
Info. Systems & Services:	Terrence Williams
Communications &	
Voter Services:	J. Scott Wiedmann
Technical Services:	Chris Dorr



**Internet Access:**  
E-mail: [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov)  
<http://www.fvap.gov>



**Write To:** Federal Voting Assistance Program  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Washington Headquarters Services  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155



**Phone:** 703-588-1584 703-588-1343  
DSN 425-1584 DSN 425-1343  
\*\*TOLL FREE 877-217-3249\*\*



**Fax:** 703-588-0108  
DSN 425-0108

**Note:** Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

*States with June, July & August primaries are shown in italics.*

# 1998 State Primary Election Calendar

State	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	Offices to be nominated for the General Election		
			FEDERAL		STATE
			U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor
<i>Alabama</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>June 30</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Alaska</i>	<i>August 25</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>
American Samoa	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>September 8</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>May 19</i>	<i>June 9</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>California</i>	<i>June 2</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>August 11</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Connecticut</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Delaware</i>	<i>September 12</i>	—	—	<i>1</i>	—
<i>District of Columbia</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	—	<i>1 Delegate</i>	<i>(Mayor)</i>
<i>Florida</i>	<i>September 1</i>	<i>October 1</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>July 21</i>	<i>August 11</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Guam</i>	<i>September 5</i>	—	—	<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Hawaii</i>	<i>September 19</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Idaho</i>	<i>May 26</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Illinois</i>	<i>March 17</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Indiana</i>	<i>May 5</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>10</i>	—
<i>Iowa</i>	<i>June 2</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kansas</i>	<i>August 4</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Kentucky</i>	<i>May 26</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>6</i>	—
<i>Louisiana</i>	<i>October 3</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>7</i>	—
<i>Maine</i>	<i>June 9</i>	—	—	<i>2</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Maryland</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Massachusetts</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	—	<i>10</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Michigan</i>	<i>August 4</i>	—	—	<i>16</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Minnesota</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	—	<i>8</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mississippi</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>June 23</i>	—	<i>5</i>	—
<i>Missouri</i>	<i>August 4</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>9</i>	—
<i>Montana</i>	<i>June 2</i>	—	—	<i>1</i>	—
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>May 12</i>	—	—	<i>3</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Nevada</i>	<i>September 1</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>New Hampshire</i>	<i>September 8</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>June 2</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>13</i>	—
<i>New Mexico</i>	<i>June 2</i>	—	—	<i>3</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>New York</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>North Carolina</i>	<i>May 5</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>12</i>	—
<i>North Dakota</i>	<i>June 9</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	—
<i>Ohio</i>	<i>May 5</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>August 25</i>	<i>September 15</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Oregon</i>	<i>May 19</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>May 19</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	—	<i>2</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>June 9</i>	<i>June 23</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>South Dakota</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>June 16</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Tennessee</i>	<i>August 6</i>	—	—	<i>9</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Texas</i>	<i>March 10</i>	<i>April 14</i>	—	<i>30</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Utah</i>	<i>June 23</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>3</i>	—
<i>Vermont</i>	<i>September 8</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Virgin Islands</i>	<i>September 8</i>	—	—	<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Virginia</i>	<i>June 9</i>	—	—	<i>11</i>	—
<i>Washington</i>	<i>September 15</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>9</i>	—
<i>West Virginia</i>	<i>May 12</i>	—	—	<i>3</i>	—
<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>September 8</i>	—	<i>Yes</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Yes</i>

## State Department: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegarty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-6060, **fax:** (202) 647-6201  
**E-mail:** hegartyph@ms1809.wpo.us-state.us

## Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532  
**E-mail:** feazellt@hoffman-emh1.army.mil

Dept. of the Navy: Mr. Ed Roscoe **tel:** (703) 614-3248, **tel DSN:** 224-3248, **fax:** (703) 693-6471, **fax DSN:** 223-6471  
**E-mail:** p662j@bupers.navy.mil

Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 652-7849, **toll-free:** (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 487-7849,  
**DSN fax** 487-5982, **Commercial fax** (210) 652-5982 **E-mail:** lowrancy@hq.afpc.af.mil

Marine Corps: SSgt Cheryl Mouchette **tel:** (703) 696-2026 **tel DSN:** 426-2026, **fax:** (703) 696-2068, **fax DSN:** 426-2068  
**E-mail:** mouchettecd@hq1.usmc.mil **ELMS:** [GMHPO3:HQIHQMC]

U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Wesley Marquardt **tel:** (202) 267-2250, **fax:** (202) 267-4600  
**E-mail:** wmarquardt@comdt.uscg.mil

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

Assist US citizens to vote in '98

## Still Wanted: Civilian Organization VAOs

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Overseas Citizen Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) network is still looking for volunteers to ensure more U.S. citizens overseas are enfranchised.

If you are interested in helping fellow overseas citizens exercise their franchise, we request your voluntary participation for a two year period. This contact will become part of the FVAP's formal network database and will serve as the primary organization point of contact to carry out an effective voting assistance program.

The FVAP will provide a Voting Assistance Kit with guidance and resources to assist each organization's Voting Assistance Officer including all materials necessary to conduct an

effective voting assistance effort.

The volunteer Voting Assistance Officer's suggested responsibilities will include:

- ♦ Expanding citizen outreach within the local community to include direct contact with civic groups, American Chambers of commerce, colleges and universities, and similar organizations.
- ♦ Serving as coordinator for the FVAP's on-site and video conferencing workshops.
- ♦ Planning and ensuring that overseas U.S. citizens, including eligible family members, are informed of current registration and voting procedures and the importance of participating in the democratic process. The briefings should begin 60 days before an election and be repeated during the week of Overseas Citizens Voters Week which begins June 28, 1998.
- ♦ Conducting voter registration drives.

- ♦ Ensuring in-hand delivery of Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) to overseas U.S. citizens no later than September 7, 1998.
- ♦ Discussing with the Director, FVAP, voter outreach efforts conducted during the election year (by telephone, fax, e-mail or regular mail.)

If this sounds interesting and you would like more information please contact the FVAP by e-mail at **vote@fvap.gov** or other method using the contact information on page 2. Sherri Morris can assist you directly during normal business hours, Eastern Time, or a recorded message may be left during non-FVAP business hours. Please be sure to provide complete contact information when leaving a message.

Formalizing the Voting Assistance Officer network is designed to ensure further enfranchisement of Americans overseas and to bring more continuity in our voting assistance efforts. We hope to hear from your organization soon!



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Washington, DC 20301-1155



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